(b) With a view to safeguarding the small scale sector against severe competition from the giant industries, the Government is assisting the small scale sector through reservation of items for exclusive production in the small scale sector, reservation of items under Government Stores Purchase Programme for exclusive/ graded purchases from the small scale units, price preference upto 15 per cent in respect of certain items for supplies made by small units against supplies from large units, single point registration of small scale units for supplies to Government with the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) for availing several facilities; the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) is providing trade information, training in marketing and management, assistance in modernisation, quality control, product and process development, testing facilities, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, holding buyers-sellers meets and encouraging development of ancillarisation. State Governments have also reserved products to be purchased exclusively from small, village and cottage industries.

(c) The Government have already reserved 869 items for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector which include, among others, laundry soaps, readymade garments and a number of plastic items. Besides, under the Government Stores Purchase Programme 409 items are reserved for exclusive purchase, 13 items for upto 75 per cent purchase and 28 items for upto 50 per cent purchase from the small scale sector. These items include soaps, plastic goods and readymade garments.

(d) The NSIC and the State Industries Development Corporations are assisting small scale units in marketing of their products. The NSIC has adopted a consortia approach for selected products under which it explores markets and secures bulk orders for supplies, provides testing facilities and balancing equipment; holds stock of goods for a cluster of units to even out supply and demand fluctuations and undertakes discounting of bills. A single window assistance approach has been adopted for exports of small industries products. The State Governments have set up State Emporia and Show Rooms in different cities to provide assistance to small scale units in marketing their products.

Plans to reduce costs and improve production by public sector units

1802. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several public sector units have worked out plans to reduce cost and improve productivity following a directive by the Department of Public Enterprises;

(b) if so, what are the names of these companies;

(c) what are the salient measures to be adopted by them for cost reduction and higher productivity;

(d) whether these measures would help promotion of export of certain new items of machinery; and

(e) if so, what are those items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI K. K. TEWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The names of Public Enterprises which have drawn up Action Plans in this regard are given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(c) to (e) The salient measures, *inter alia* include action in identified thrust areas relevant to the enterprises concerned, such as reduction in consumption of raw materials, con-

servation of energy, inventory control and working capital management, cutting down unproductive expenses, improvement in capacity utilisation etc. These measures, as also the emphasis laid on exports, would help to enhance exportability of products in the product-profile of the enterprises, including improved versions of machine tools, etc.

Statement

Name of Public Enterprises which have drawn up Action Plans

1. Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.
2. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.
3. Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Ltd.
4. Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd.
5. Bharat Opthalmic Glass Ltd.
6. Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd.
7. Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Ltd.
8. Bharat Wagons and Engineering Co. Ltd.
9. Braithwaite and Co. Ltd.
10. Burn Standard Co. Ltd.
11. Cement Corporation of India Ltd.
12. Cycle Corporation of India Ltd.
13. Engineering Projects India Ltd.
14. Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.
15. Hindustan Cables Ltd.
16. Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd. (Including Mandya National Paper Mills, Nagaland Pulp and Paper and Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.)
17. Hindustan Photofilms Mfg. Co. Ltd.
18. HMT Ltd.
19. Instrumentation Ltd.
20. Jessop and Co. Ltd.
21. Lagan Jute Machinery Co. Ltd.
22. Maruti Udyog Ltd.
23. Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd.
24. National Bicycle Corporation of India.
25. Hindustan Salts Ltd. (including Sambhar Salts Ltd.)
26. National Industrial Development Corporation.
27. National Instruments Ltd.
28. National Newsprint and Paper Mills Ltd.
29. Richardson and Cruddas (1972) Ltd.
30. Scooters India Ltd.
31. Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Ltd.
32. Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.
33. Triveni Structurals Ltd.
34. Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.

Proposal to bring Public Sector Undertakings and Cooperative Societies MRTP Act

1803. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring public sector undertakings and co-operataive societies under the fold of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Various suggestions for protecting the interests of the consumers, including *inter alia* a proposal for bringing Government companies and co-operative societies within the purview of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act as regards consumer grievances, are presently under the consideration of Government. No final decision has been taken in this regard.